



Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: Lafayette Independent Aging Agenda Event-The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action!

Date of Event: September 9, 2005

Location of Event: Immaculata Center, Lafayette, LA

Number of Persons attending: 60

Sponsoring Organizations: Cajun Area Agency on Aging; University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Depts. Of Kinesiology, Human Resources and Nursing; Diocese of Lafayette, Office of Justice and Peace; Lafayette Consolidated Government; Lafayette Council on Aging; Lafayette General Medical Center, Center on Aging; Alzheimer's Association; and Lafayette Aging Network. (Lafayette Aging Coalition)

Contact Person: Dr. Claire Foret

Telephone Number: 337-482-6462

Email: cforet@louisiana.edu

Please follow this format for each priority area, with the most important listed first. **Please ensure that your organization's name and contact information is provided at the bottom of each page submitted.**

Priority Issue # 1 (describe specific issue) *Health Promotion, Disease Prevention*

Facilitator: **Dr. Ardith Sudduth, College of Nursing, University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

1. Transportation
2. Access
 - a) home visits
 - b) special needs - Alzheimer's Disease patients, visually impaired, developmentally disabled
3. Education for healthy aging
4. Intergenerational education - activities for healthy living
5. Oversight management of medication and health issues

Barriers: (List any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

1. Lack of transportation
2. Lack of knowledge of available community resources (i.e., physicians, consumers)
3. Lack of insurance reimbursement for preventative measures

Proposed Solutions (s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

1. Provide transportation to preventive care facilities, both interstate and intrastate
2. Allow for more reimbursable preventive measures - home injury control (i.e., falls)
3. Provide professionals more reasonable costs, time and availability to participate in education
4. Treat Alzheimer's disease as a clinical disease
5. Allow nurse practitioners to provide at home care
6. Allow for at home diagnostic care
7. Provide more access to preventive care and disease management
8. Allow for intergenerational activities and education in own neighborhood schools
9. Provide more educational programs to prepare for aging
10. Provide better education and oversight management of medication
11. Provide recreation, physical fitness and activity programs and resources
12. Provide more health screenings and intervention activities
13. Educate physicians and office staff about recreational/wellness activities and community resources to promote healthy aging.
14. Include wellness management in health care profession curriculum

Priority Issue # 2 (describe specific issue) Long Term Living

Facilitator: Ms. Ruth Fontenot, former mayor of New Iberia, LA and director of an assisted living facility

1. Expand home health eligibility for homebound care
2. Medication management policies
3. More flexibility for Medicaid and Medicare funding for homebound and long term care
4. Ensure changes in generational issues. Encourage cultural change in long term care.
5. Elderly abuse issues

Barriers: (List any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

1. Lack of education on long term care insurance and alternatives
2. Lack of awareness of laws concerning elderly abuse
3. Lack of funding/reimbursement for some ADL's and quality of life non medical issues/programs in home health care, long term care and assisted living facilities

Proposed Solutions (s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

1. Mandate states to fund assisted living through Medicaid
2. Medicaid funding should be more flexible for home health care
3. Expand home health eligibility to include ADLs
4. Provide affordable long term care insurance

5. Provide long term care alternative to nursing home
6. Enforce laws on elder abuse and educate public on procedures concerning the laws
7. Provide more training to caregivers, paraprofessionals, professionals in quality of life non medical programs and issues
8. Provide higher salaries for paraprofessionals in adult day care, long term and assisted living settings
9. Provide for more adult day care settings and programs

Priority Issue # 3 (describe specific issue) *Caregiving across the Spectrum*

Facilitators: Ms. Ida Nezey, Lafayette General Medical Center, Older Adult Services and Dr. Janice Weber, Child and Family Studies, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

1. Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act with increased funding. Include alternatives to present contribution policy to include abilities to develop a sliding fee scale.
2. Expand Respite Care services
3. Educate caregiver workforce.
4. Provide for more outreach to individuals in need of services.
5. Streamline access to services.

Barriers: (List any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

1. Lack of funding opportunities
2. Lack of caregivers for some older adults
3. Lack of resources in rural areas
4. Lack of knowledge of older adults and caregivers on community resources and how to obtain them.

Proposed Solutions (s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

1. Provide caregiver services availability in rural areas
2. Educate the public on the availability of services in the community, region, and state
3. Education of program providers that many older adults do not have caregivers
4. Encourage individuals to come forward to find resources
5. Provide funding for market research
6. Address restrictions on administration of medications in assisted living and home care settings by non-licensed personnel
7. Educate the workplace to provide support to workers who are caregivers

Overview of the Lafayette Independent Aging Agenda Event:

Fliers were mailed out to Lafayette Aging Network, publicized in various newspapers and newsletters and posted throughout the community. Individuals were asked to call in and register prior to the event. Those individuals were sent a questionnaire and asked to return it to the Cajun Area Agency on Aging prior to the meeting. The information was compiled and used by the facilitators in each of the priority areas addressed. Mr. Godfrey White, Director of the Louisiana Office on Elderly Affairs attended the meeting and also gave an overview of elderly concerns in Louisiana. Several of the Louisiana

delegates to the White House Conference on Aging were in attendance. Participants were asked to evaluate the meeting. Evaluations of the meeting provided additional comments and were included in this report.

Photos are of the participants who attended the Lafayette Independent Aging Agenda Event.

Gentlemen in suit is Mr. Godfrey White, Director of Louisiana Office on Elderly Affairs, Ida Nezey, Director of Older Adult Services, Lafayette General Medical center is in the far background. Others include University of Louisiana at Lafayette Human Resource and Kinesiology students.



Lafayette Independent Aging Agenda Event Participants





Top Photo: Warner Senegal (Lafayette Council on Aging Board Member-black gentleman with hat) James Myrick (Silver Senator, National Silver Haired Congress & Louisiana Delegate-at-Large to WHOCA) and other participants.

Bottom Photo: Participants at Lafayette Independent Aging Agenda Event